

Websites for Tracing England Ancestry

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There are several individual websites that have comprehensive coverage in England's counties providing researchers with tons of information. The Internet is very useful for identifying published transcripts of England's records, record holdings of remote repositories, as well as some which facilitate contacting other researchers with in-common England ancestry.

RESEARCH TIPS

- Keep a research log with the addresses of Web sites you visit, when, and what you found. If it's really important, print it—you never know when it may disappear!
- When searching databases for any name, be aware of spelling variations and nicknames.
- Look to see when the Web site was last updated. If you are looking for current information and site has not been updated since 1999, this could be a problem.
- The Internet is a wonderful resource when its limitations are known. Just as you would do with any other resource, make sure you know the sources you are getting your information from, and if the source is reliable.
- Always view details found in original records

GAZETTEERS

Name	Site Description	URL Address
VisionOfBritain	Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales by A. Fullarton & Co. (publ.1870). London	www.visionofbritain.org.uk/description
British-History	Topographical Dictionary of England/Wales - publ 1848. click "Source"; "Dictionary/Gazetteers", "Lewis"	http://www.british-history.ac.uk/topographical-dict/england

MAPS

	Site Description	URL Address
England 1851 Jurisdictions Project	England Jurisdictions Map Project – descriptions of parishes, their jurisdictions, contiguous parishes and radius searches	maps.familysearch.org
Vision of Britain	Has a variety of maps which are free to view. These are flat maps and can be valuable to your research.	www.visionofbritain.org.uk
GB Names	Easy-to-use utility which shows surname distribution throughout 1881 England with a free online mapping service.	http://gbnames.publicprofiler.org/
Atlas & Index(maps)	Phillimore's <i>Atlas & Index to Parish Registers</i> – showing parish boundary maps by county name	http://search.ancestry.co.uk/search/db.aspx?dbid=8830
O. S. Maps	Ordnance Survey Maps – 3 to 6 inches to the mile detail; can buy	http://maps.nls.uk/os
Old Maps	OldMapsOnline; can buy	www.oldmapsonline.org

CENSUS

Name	Site Description	URL Address
FreeCen	This project aims to provide a "free-to-view" online searchable database of the 19th century UK census returns – not complete yet	www.freecen.org.uk
FamilySearch	Has indexed (single) entries to most censuses records of England, 1841 to 1901 – no original images; all entries point to FindMyPast	familysearch.org
Ancestry	Online census records 1841-1911 (\$); have original images	www.ancestry.co.uk
Find My Past	Online census records 1841-1911 (\$); have original images	www.findmypast.com
The Genealogist	Online census records 1841-1911 (\$); have original images	www.thegenealogist.co.uk
RootsUK	Online census transcripts (only; no images), 1841-1901 only	www.rootsuk.com

CHURCH RECORDS

Name	Site Description	URL Address
England	FamilySearch.org – church records extracted and online – ~140 Million entries – databases for Church of England, Nonconformists	www.familysearch.org
OPC	Online church records for 13 counties: Lanc, York, Cornwall, Kent, Sussex, Warwickshire, Leics, Cheshire, & more. Google "OPC" and [name of] parish – to find.	www.onlineparishclerks.org.uk/ see also: www.fhlfavorites.com click—Civil Registration (under county name)
FindMyPast	Online parish baptisms, marriages & burials: 160+ m entries	www.findmypast.co.uk
BMDRegister	Largest non-conformist web site – 68 million entries (\$)	www.bmdregisters.co.uk
SOG	Society of Genealogists - over 10,000 parish transcripts (\$) (out of England's nearly 14,000 parishes) – a very significant collection just in their library	www.sog.org.uk
TheGenealogist	Has over 50 million Church of England & Nonconformist church registers indexes/transcriptions online	www.thegenealogist.co.uk
FreeReg	Has nearly 40 million free online transcriptions to Church registers indexes	www.FreeReg.org.uk
ParishRegister.com	London Docklands website with free index searches online; pay to view transcribed details for East-end London parishes mostly; ~approx. 10m entries	www.parishregister.com
UKBMD.org.uk	Excellent/gateway website to numerous county database sites	www.ukbmd.org.uk

CIVIL REGISTRATION

Name	Site Description	URL Address
FamSrch	Indexes to civil registration (via FindMyPast) - BMDs: 1837-1983	www.familysearch.org
UKBMD	Gateway website with links to several county-wide indexing projects currently underway for BMD data, 1837 to 2005	www.ukbmd.org.uk
FreeBMD	Civil Registration Indexes – free searching of indexes from 1837-1930s	www.freebmd.org.uk

FindMyPast	BMD indexes to 2005 online	www.findmypast.co.uk
Ancestry	BMD indexes to 2005 online	www.ancestry.co.uk
FamilyRelatives	BMD indexes – similar to the original microfiche version	www.familyrelatives.com
[name of county]BMD	Several county-wide BMD indexing projects currently have BMDs online, incl. – Cheshire, Hampshire, Kent, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Northumberland, Sussex, Warwickshire, Staffordshire, Yorkshire,	Google: [name of county] & BMD

KEY WEBSITES FOR ENGLAND

Name	Site Description	URL Address
Ancestry.co.uk	Ancestry.com (\$) – additional extensive databases both transcribed and digitized for – emigration, immigration, census, church registers, probate, directories, etc.	www.ancestry.co.uk
FindMyPast	Digitized databases (\$) – civil registration, census, migration, military, specialist records	www.findmypast.co.uk
Wiki.familysearch: (see esp. Cheshire, Lancs., London, Middlesex, Yorkshire)	Familysearch has abt the largest Church of England offerings online. Links to F.S. and to many other websites are located on the “Parish” page for each parish/township for especially those counties listed in left margin	www.wiki.familysearch.org
FHLFavorites	Links to 8,500 British & Irish websites and databases – local & national	www.fhlfavorites.info (to be updated soon)

ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

Name	Site Description	URL Address
Great Britain	National Register of Archives (at TNA): offers a catalog search for 2,500 archives' holdings	www.gov.uk/nra/
TNA	The National Archives – holds national collections to numerous records back to the 11 th century, incl wills, estate, chancery court, military, manor courts, nonconformist church records, pipe rolls, and other medieval records, with many online databases for military, navy, merchant maritime, PCC wills, etc.	www.nationalarchives.gov.uk
County Record offices	Google to find: “county record office”, [name of] “county”	Various via Google

FAMILY TREE SITES & “LOOKUP SERVICES COORDINATION VIA NETWORKING & MAILING LISTS

Many people have success stories of questions answered, connections made, and problems solved using these web sites. Warning: your e-mail inbox can be inundated with messages from mailing lists, especially if you subscribe in list versus digest mode (List mode is when every message sent to the mailing list winds up in your inbox. Digest mode is a summary of all new messages posted within a certain period of time.)

Name	Site Description	URL Address
GenesReunited	Genes Reunited (\$) – submit your family database and begin to collaborate with other family members as the site connects you; 100's of millions of names to search	www.genesreunited.com
LostCousins	Lost Cousins - Through submitting your family members from the census records, it connects you with others who	www.lostcousins.com

	have the same family; excellent e-newsletter; tree has 100's millions of compiled families and individuals	
MyHeritage	My Heritage - 555 million profiles providing researchers to help facilitate collaboration with relatives	www.myheritage.com
Rootsweb	Extracted/compiled records submitted by individuals, plus mailing lists (aid in collaboration of family information)	www.rootsweb.com
FamilySearch	A powerful collaboration-based website with lots of resources including FamilyTree and a research Wiki	www.familysearch.org
RAOGK	A free lookup service for novices and family researchers (not for professional genealogists) who'll lookup an item once a month; volunteer your services as well	www.raogk.org

SOCIETIES AND RESEARCH SERVICES

Name	Site Description	URL Address
FFHS	Federation of Family History Societies: a group of hundreds of societies in the UK, Ireland, & throughout parts of the world each provide, research helps, guides, published transcriptions of church, probate, military, census, etc. records at the local level	www.ffhs.org.uk
ICAPGen	International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists – sets standards for genealogical community through comprehensive written and oral examinations; can locate a professional researcher.	www.icapgen.org
SOG	Society of Genealogists - Britain's premier family history society; maintains a large collection of parish registers/transcriptions to over 11,000 of the 13,000 ancient parishes and more.	www.sog.org.uk

SURNAMES

Name	Site Description	URL Address
TheGenealogist	Surname concentration maps from census data: 1841-1871; 1891-1901	www.thegenealogist.co.uk
Guild of One Name Studies (G.O.O.N.S.)	Surname gatherers (British & Irish & etc) share their significant findings	www.gbnames.com

OTHER HELPFUL SITES

Name	Site Description	URL Address
All	FamilySearch – click: Learning Center	www.familysearch.org
	FamilySearch Facebook - A place where researchers can obtain assistance and methodologies for their family history questions.	https://www.facebook.com/familysearch
	FamilySearch Wiki – can provide detailed and effective “helps” in research; invites all to contribute their family history knowledge	wiki.familysearch.org
	UK and Ireland Genealogy – Large collection of genealogical information pages for England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man	www.genuki.org.uk
	Cyndi's List – links to hundreds of genealogical web sites	www.cyndislist.com
	Use search engines to explore other possible links	www.google.com ; www.mocavo.com www.bing.com ; www.dogpile.com ; www.ask.com ; etc.

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